

## Congresswoman NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

Representing New York's 12th Congressional District  
Ranking Democrat, House Small Business Committee



### Velázquez Fights to Hire Public Housing Residents Bill to require more tenants hired on big construction jobs

Congresswoman Velázquez held a press conference June 12 to announce the introduction of a bill that would tighten existing federal legislation governing the hiring of public housing residents in federally funded construction projects in housing developments. Velázquez was joined by public housing residents, Good Old Lower East Side (GOLES),



Congresswoman Velázquez discusses her bill requiring construction contracts in public housing to hire more of their residents.

Public Housing Residents of the Lower East Side (PHROLES), construction unions, and local elected officials.

Congresswoman Velázquez said that under her bill, Section 3 of the federal housing law would be amended so that 30% of all labor costs on contracts worth \$500,000 or more will be set aside for hiring eligible residents. And contractors who meet Section 3 goals will receive favorable consideration on future contract bids.

Velázquez's bill will also require housing authorities and contractors to work together to provide better outreach and placement of interested housing tenants.

Because the current law is seen as lacking in training opportunities for tenant employment, the Congresswoman's bill will also improve existing worker-training programs.

The Congresswoman called on NYCHA and HUD to work with the groups assembled to make the Section 3 program a success.

### Hispanic Caucus Investigates Vieques Mistreatment Members decry rubber bullets use, protester beatings

Last month, Congresswoman Velázquez joined in efforts with the office of Puerto Rico's Resident Commissioner Acevedo Vilá and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus to shed light on the mistreatment of protestors detained by the United States Navy on the Puerto Rican Island of Vieques in late April.

"A year ago when I joined the protest in Vieques I saw the same injustice," Velázquez said. "Once again, the Navy chose to behave like a world-class bully."

In light of the Navy's resumption of its military practices in April, an array of Puerto Rican and U.S. political, community, religious and environmental leaders, decided to undertake a demonstration of civil disobedience.

According to representatives of the Puerto Rican Senate, members of the Navy military police indiscriminately fired rubber bullets at protestors located outside Navy compounds and protesters were kicked in ground after they had been immobilized and handcuffed.

"The Navy displayed a total disregard for human well-being by applying brutal force against its own citizens. These actions have absolutely no place in a democratic society," the Congresswoman said.

Last month, the Administration announced the Navy would leave Vieques in two years.

# Baby Safe Haven Opens at Bushwick Hospital

## Wyckoff Heights Medical Center helps abandoned infants

In June, Congresswoman Velázquez celebrated the opening of the Baby Safe Haven at Wyckoff Heights Medical Center in Bushwick.

"This program is particularly important to me," Velázquez said.

The Baby Safe Haven program grew out of concern for the safety and well-being of abandoned newborns. Before a law was passed last July, many unwanted infants were abandoned by their parents in unsafe or criminal conditions. The Baby Safe Havens at hospitals, fire houses, and law enforcement centers are safe "drop-off" points where an unwanted infant can be left with no questions asked. This allows a mother or father to remain anonymous, without fear of criminal prosecution, while giving the child a chance for a better life.

"The Baby Safe Haven program is a truly innovative



Congresswoman Velázquez with Baby Safe Haven administrators at Wyckoff Heights Medical Center in Bushwick.

program. We can be proud that we have the network to provide every child with a chance for a happy future," Congresswoman Velázquez said.

For Baby Safe Haven, call: 1-877-796-HOPE (4673) or [www.amtchildrenofhope.org](http://www.amtchildrenofhope.org).

# New Power Plant for Greenpoint/Williamsburg

## Velázquez wants alternative for industry-impacted area

Congresswoman Velázquez's office joined area residents, local activists and other elected officials to protest the latest proposal for a power plant on the Brooklyn waterfront. Despite vehement protests, however, Clean Point Energy, the project's developer, has vowed to continue plans to build a new 1,000-megawatt power plant there.

The proposal calls for a natural gas-burning power plant on a 4-acre site at Kent Ave. and N. 12th St. The plant would produce enough electricity to supply one million households. Clean Point argued that the plant will bring development to a long-contaminated waterfront site.

But the neighborhood is already overburdened by power plants, waste transfer stations and other sources of pollution, and the proposed plant will scuttle the community's plans to revitalize the northern Brooklyn waterfront.

Velázquez also called on utilities and the State to look instead at alternative sources of energy, a conservation plan, and upgrading the antiquated grid system.

Last year the community and their elected officials were successful in persuading Con Edison-KeySpan to drop plans for a 500-megawatt plant just blocks from the proposed plant at Greenpoint Terminal Market.

# Velázquez Delivers Acción Keynote Address

## Congresswoman praises decade of public service

Congresswoman Velázquez was the keynote speaker at Acción New York's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner this month.

Velázquez congratulated Acción for a decade of work in low-income communities, including providing \$14 million in loans to low-income entrepreneurs, which has resulted in job creation and the revitalization of neighborhoods across the City. This has helped double the household and business incomes in our area.

The Congresswoman recognized Acción for lending to groups often marginalized by traditional lenders: 90% of Acción borrowers are Latinos and 40% are women.

"Through its lending program," Velázquez said, "Acción is creating economic anchors in our communities."

---

## Grants Awarded to Our Community

21st Century Program: P.S. 145.....\$200,000

Establishes a community learning center serving 1,640 students and community members with after-school, weekend and summer programs.

United We Stand of New York (Brooklyn).....\$100,000

Grant to United We Stand, which provides information, support and direct assistance to meet the life needs of culturally diverse families who have children with disabilities, including building family knowledge of their rights and responsibilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Metropolitan Transportation Authority (New York).....\$498,900

Grant to fill transportation gaps linking low-income residential areas and employment centers